(b) if so, what are the proposals in this regard; and

(c) what decisions, if any, have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) The Government had prepared national perspectives for optimum water resources utilisation through linking of different rivers which comprises of two components viz., the Himalayan rivers development and the Peninsular rivers development.

The National Water Development Agency a registered Society under the Ministry of Water Resources has been entrusted with the work of formulating proposals after survey and investigations. The Agency has completed pre-feasibility reports on 7 water transfer links for the Peninsular rivers. The concerned State Governments are represented on the Society and implementation need consensus on the schemes.

Privatisation of mines

185. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise some of the un-viable and/or unprofitable mines of different types all over the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal. However, if mining is noe corried out by the lessee in accordance with terms and conditions of the mining lease, the lease can be determined according to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act.

Vocational education

186. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps being taken to encourage vocational education in the country; and

(b) the details of amount allocated and spent so far in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE): (a) In pursuance of the priority accorded to the Vocational Education Programme in the National Policy on Education (1986), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was started with effect from February, 1988. A Joint Council of Vocational Education (JCVE) under the Union Education Minister has been set up at the national level to ensure proper planning and coordination of the Vocational Programmes. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme substantial financial assistance is provided to States/UT's for running Vocational courses at the plus 2 level. Assistance is also provided for the required technical resource support and management structure. Efforts rea being made to run job-linked courses in collaboration with industry and various Ministries/Departments. The recruitment rules for Group 'C' posts are being reviewed to make the Vocational pass-outs eligible for employment in Govt./Quasi-Govt. jobs. To facilitate self employment amongst the vocational pass-outs it has been decided to give them preference under the Scheme of Self Employment for Educated Un-